

NORTH CAROLINA TURNPIKE AUTHORITY BOARD
MARCH 18, 2004
WILMINGTON, NORTH CAROLINA

Chairman Lyndo Tippet called the North Carolina Turnpike Authority Board to order at 9:35 A.M. at the Wilmington City Hall in Wilmington, North Carolina. He then introduced all Board members. Chairman Tippet read the Governor's ethics statement. All Board members were present.

Board Member Perry Safran made a motion to recommend approval of the January 15, 2004 minutes. The motion was second by Board Member Sang Hamilton. The minutes were approved.

Chairman Tippet welcomed all guests and thanked Board Member Lanny Wilson for hosting the second public input meeting of the Turnpike Authority Board in Wilmington. Chairman Tippet noted that the NCTA Board met at the Ports Authority in Wilmington the previous day for a workshop facilitated by Jeff Roerden with NCDOT Productivity Services. The workshop served to facilitate discussion among members regarding the organizational tasks to be accomplished by the Board, a time frame for completing those tasks, and assignment of action items to committees. A meeting schedule was established for the remainder of 2004 with committee meetings to be held on the same dates. The committees will meet starting with the April meeting from 9 to 10:30 A.M. and from 10:30 A.M. to 12:00 P.M., with the official Board meeting beginning at 12:30 P.M. in the Transportation Building Board Room. A tour for the Turnpike Authority Members of the State Port followed the workshop.

Vice Chairman Lanny Wilson called on Bob Warrick for comments on the Cape Fear Skyway Project in Wilmington.

Deputy Attorney General Bob Crawford presented the bylaws of the North Carolina Turnpike Authority for adoption by the Board. Mr. Crawford stated the approved bylaws were submitted to the NCDOT Board of Transportation on December 4, 2003 for their review and comments and likewise submitted to the Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee on November 10, 2003. Having been received no comments or changes to the bylaws, Board Member Lanny Wilson made a motion to adopt the bylaws as presented, with a second by Allan Dameron. The bylaws were adopted.

Deputy Secretary David King gave a report on the Transportation Finance Summit Meeting that he recently attended in Washington, D. C. The meeting was sponsored by International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association. Mr. King highlighted some of the key points made during the presentations, including viability of current funding mechanisms and the need for alternative revenue options, as well as advances in toll collection technology.

Mark Foster, NCDOT Chief Financial Officer also attended the Transportation Finance Summit Meeting in Washington and gave an informative overview from the financial perspective. He noted in particular increased interest in the implementation of user fees as a supplement to motor fuels taxes, and the need to look at new revenue sources and innovative financing techniques.

David King then introduced Patrick D. Jones, Executive Director of the International Bridge, Tunnel and Turnpike Association with headquarters in Washington, D. C. IBTTA is the worldwide alliance of toll operators and associated industries that provides a forum for sharing knowledge and ideas to promote and enhance toll financed transportation services. The association has 250+ corporate members in 25 countries on 6 continents. Members include toll operators and firms that provide productions and services to the toll industry.

Mr. Jones noted the looming “financing crisis” in transportation infrastructure funding and the need for strong leadership to address the crisis. He commended the State for demonstrating foresight in establishing the North Carolina Turnpike Authority, as an example of such leadership. He concluded by outlining the benefits of IBTTA membership, in particular access to the considerable knowledge resource the organization represents.

Governor Mike Easley joined the meeting by welcoming the Turnpike Authority Board members and thanked them for the work they are doing for the citizens North Carolina.

Vice Chairman Lanny Wilson introduced Allan Pope Division Engineer with the North Carolina Department of Transportation to give a presentation on the Cape Fear Skyway. He also introduced Mark Tinkler MPO coordinator with the City of Wilmington for a presentation on the Cape Fear Skyway project. Mr. Wilson then introduced speakers from the community expressing support of the Cape Fear Skyway Project. Vice Chairman Lanny Wilson also introduced several concerned citizens expressing support of the Mid – Currituck Bridge. (Please see the attached listing of speakers.)

Secretary Tippetts concluded the meeting by thanking everyone for attending the meeting and expressing their support of the project.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Minutes prepared by: Alice Murphy